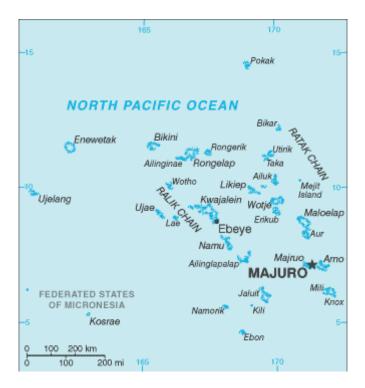


This page was last updated on 19 June 2008



Legend: Definition Field Listing Rank Order

Introduction Marshall Islands Top of Page

Background: 🛄 🗐

After almost four decades under US administration as the easternmost part of the UN Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Marshall Islands attained

independence in 1986 under a Compact of Free Association. Compensation claims continue as a result of US nuclear testing on some of the atolls between 1947 and 1962. The Marshall Islands hosts the US Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA) Reagan Missile Test Site, a key installation in the US missile defense network.

Marshall Islands Geography Top of Page Location: image: image: Location image: imag Oceania, two archipelagic island chains of 29 atolls, each made up of many small islets, and five single islands in the North Pacific Ocean, about half way between Hawaii and Australia Geographic \square coordinates: 900 N, 168 00 E Map references: Oceania Area: i Illo total: 181.3 sq km land: 181.3 sq km water: 0 sq km note: the archipelago includes 11,673 sq km of lagoon waters and includes the atolls of Bikini, Enewetak, Kwajalein, Majuro, Rongelap, and Utirik Area comparative: about the size of Washington, DC Land boundaries: 🛄 🗐 $0 \, \text{km}$ Coastline: im [] 370.4 km Maritime claims: 🛄 🗐 territorial sea: 12 nm contiguous zone: 24 nm exclusive economic zone: 200 nm Climate: 🛄 🗐 tropical; hot and humid; wet season May to November; islands border typhoon belt Terrain: ____ low coral limestone and sand islands Elevation extremes: lowest point: Pacific Ocean 0 m highest point: unnamed location on Likiep 10 m

Natural resources: iii iii coconut products, marine products, deep seabed minerals Land use: iii iii arable land: 11.11% permanent crops: 44.44% other: 44.45% (2005) Irrigated land: 🔲 🗐 0 sq km Natural hazards: 🛄 🗐 infrequent typhoons Environment - 📖 🗐 current issues: inadequate supplies of potable water; pollution of Majuro lagoon from household waste and discharges from fishing vessels Environment international agreements: party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands, Whaling signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements Geography - note: 🔲 🧐 the Marshall Islands Bikini and Enewetak are former US nuclear test sites; Kwajalein, the famous World War II battleground, is used as a US missile test range; island city of Ebeye is the second largest settlement in the Marshall Islands, after the capital of Majuro, and one of the most densely populated locations in the Pacific **People** Marshall Islands Top of Page Population: 🛄 🗐 63,174 (July 2008 est.) Age structure: iii iii 0-14 years: 38.5% (male 12,404/female 11,946) 15-64 years: 58.6% (male 18,937/female 18,095) 65 years and over: 2.8% (male 869/female 923) (2008 est.) Median age: 📖 🗐 total: 21 years male: 21 years female: 20.9 years (2008 est.) **Population growth** rate: 2.142% (2008 est.) Birth rate: 🛄 📋 31.52 births/1,000 population (2008 est.)

Death rate:	
	4.57 deaths/1,000 population (2008 est.)
Net migration rate:	
	-5.52 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2008 est.)
Sex ratio:	
	at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female under 15 years: 1.04 male(s)/female 15-64 years: 1.05 male(s)/female 65 years and over: 0.94 male(s)/female total population: 1.04 male(s)/female (2008 est.)
Infant mortality rate:	total: 26.36 deaths/1,000 live births male: 29.58 deaths/1,000 live births female: 22.98 deaths/1,000 live births (2008 est.)
Life expectancy at birth:	total population: 70.9 years male: 68.88 years female: 73.03 years (2008 est.)
Total fertility rate:	
	3.68 children born/woman (2008 est.)
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:	NA In the second
HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:	NA In the second
HIV/AIDS - deaths:	
	NA
Nationality:	
	noun: Marshallese (singular and plural) adjective: Marshallese
Ethnic groups:	
	Micronesian
Religions:	
	Protestant 54.8%, Assembly of God 25.8%, Roman Catholic 8.4%, Bukot nan Jesus 2.8%, Mormon 2.1%, other Christian 3.6%, other 1%, none 1.5% (1999 census)
Languages:	
	Marshallese (official) 98.2%, other languages 1.8% (1999 census) note: English (official), widely spoken as a second language

Literacy: 🛄 🗐

definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 93.7%

male: 93.6%

female: 93.7% (1999)

Marshall Islands Government

Top of Page

Country name: i

conventional long form: Republic of the Marshall Islands

conventional short form: Marshall Islands

local long form: Republic of the Marshall Islands

local short form: Marshall Islands

abbreviation: RMI

former: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Marshall Islands District

Government type: 🛄 🗐



constitutional government in free association with the US; the Compact of Free Association entered into force 21 October 1986 and the Amended Compact

entered into force in May 2004

Capital: 🛄 🗐



name: Majuro

geographic coordinates: 7 06 N, 171 23 E

time difference: UTC+12 (17 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard

Time)

Administrative divisions:



33 municipalities; Ailinginae, Ailinglaplap, Ailuk, Arno, Aur, Bikar, Bikini, Bokak, Ebon, Enewetak, Erikub, Jabat, Jaluit, Jemo, Kili, Kwajalein, Lae, Lib, Likiep, Majuro, Maloelap, Mejit, Mili, Namorik, Namu, Rongelap, Rongrik,

Toke, Ujae, Ujelang, Utirik, Wotho, Wotje

Independence: im [im]



21 October 1986 (from the US-administered UN trusteeship)

National holiday: 📖 🗐



Constitution Day, 1 May (1979)

Constitution: 🛄 🗐

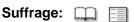


1 May 1979

Legal system: in [iii]



based on adapted Trust Territory laws, acts of the legislature, municipal, common, and customary laws; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction



18 years of age; universal

Executive branch: i



chief of state: President Litokwa TOMEING (since 7 January 2008); note - the

president is both the chief of state and head of government head of government: President Litokwa TOMEING (since 7 January 2008) cabinet: Cabinet selected by the president from among the members of the legislature

elections: president elected by Parliament from among its members for a four-year term; election last held 7 January 2008 (next to be held in 2012) election results: Litokwa TOMEING elected president; TOMEING received 18 votes to 15 for incumbent NOTE

Legislative branch: i



unicameral legislature or Nitijela (33 seats; members elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms)

elections: last held 19 November 2007 (next to be held by November 2011) election results: percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - independents 4 *note*: the Council of Chiefs or Ironij is a 12-member body comprised of tribal chiefs that advises on matters affecting customary law and practice

Judicial branch: 📖 🗐



Supreme Court; High Court; Traditional Rights Court

Political parties and leaders:



traditionally there have been no formally organized political parties; what has existed more closely resembles factions or interest groups because they do not have party headquarters, formal platforms, or party structures; the following two "groupings" have competed in legislative balloting in recent years - Aelon Kein Ad Party [Michael KABUA] and United Democratic Party or UDP [Litokwa TOMEING]

Political pressure iii



groups and leaders: NA

International III III



organization

participation: ACP, ADB, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICCt, IDA, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO,

IMSO, Interpol, IOC, ITU, OPCW, PIF, Sparteca, SPC, UN, UNCTAD,

UNESCO, WHO

Diplomatic 🛄 🗐 representation in



the US: chief of mission: Ambassador Banny DE BRUM

chancery: 2433 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone: [1] (202) 234-5414 FAX: [1] (202) 232-3236 consulate(s) general: Honolulu

Diplomatic [representation



from the US: chief of mission: Ambassador Clyde BISHOP

embassy: Oceanside, Mejen Weto, Long Island, Majuro

mailing address: P. O. Box 1379, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands

96960-1379

telephone: [692] 247-4011 FAX: [692] 247-4012

Flag description: im 🗐

blue with two stripes radiating from the lower hoist-side corner - orange (top) and white; there is a white star with four large rays and 20 small rays on the hoist side above the two stripes

Economy Marshall Islands

Top of Page

Economy overview:



US Government assistance is the mainstay of this tiny island economy. The Marshall Islands received more than \$1 billion in aid from the US from 1986-2002. Agricultural production, primarily subsistence, is concentrated on small farms; the most important commercial crops are coconuts and breadfruit. Small-scale industry is limited to handicrafts, tuna processing, and copra. The tourist industry, now a small source of foreign exchange employing less than 10% of the labor force, remains the best hope for future added income. The islands have few natural resources, and imports far exceed exports. Under the terms of the Amended Compact of Free Association, the US will provide millions of dollars per year to the Marshall Islands (RMI) through 2023, at which time a Trust Fund made up of US and RMI contributions will begin perpetual annual payouts. Government downsizing, drought, a drop in construction, the decline in tourism, and less income from the renewal of fishing vessel licenses have held GDP growth to an average of 1% over the past decade.

GDP (purchasing



power parity): \$115 million (2001 est.)

GDP (official

exchange rate): \$144 million (2005)

GDP - real growth rate: 3.5% (2005 est.)

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$2,900 (2005 est.)

GDP - composition by sector:

agriculture: 31.7%

industry: 14.9% services: 53.4% (2004 est.)

Labor force:

14,680 (2000)

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture: 21.4% industry: 20.9%

services: 57.7% (2000)

Unemployment image rate:

30.9% (2000 est.)

Population below poverty line:	NA%
Household income or consumption by percentage share:	lowest 10%: NA% highest 10%: NA%
Inflation rate (consumer prices):	3% (2005 est.)
Budget:	
	revenues: \$42 million expenditures: \$40 million (1999)
Agriculture - products:	coconuts, tomatoes, melons, taro, breadfruit, fruits; pigs, chickens
Industries:	
	copra, tuna processing, tourism, craft items (from seashells, wood, and pearls)
Industrial production growth rate:	
	NA%
Exports:	
	\$9.1 million f.o.b. (2000)
Exports -	
commodities:	copra cake, coconut oil, handicrafts, fish
Exports - partners:	
	US, Japan, Australia, China (2006)
Imports:	
	\$54.7 million f.o.b. (2000)
Imports - commodities:	
commodities.	foodstuffs, machinery and equipment, fuels, beverages and tobacco
Imports - partners:	
	US, Japan, Australia, NZ, Singapore, Fiji, China, Philippines (2006)
Economic aid - recipient:	
. oc.p.c	\$56.56 million (2005)
Debt - external:	
	\$86.5 million (FY99/00 est.)
Currency (code):	
	US dollar (USD)
Exchange rates:	
	the US dollar is used

Fiscal year:			
	1 October - 30 September		
Communications	Marshall Islands	Top of Page	
Telephones - main lines in use:			
lines in use:	4,500 (2004)		
Telephones - mobile cellular:	600 (2004)		
Telephone system:			
	general assessment: digital switching equipment; modern servicellular, Internet, international calling, caller ID, and leased da domestic: Majuro Atoll and Ebeye and Kwajalein islands have seven-digit, direct-dial telephones; other islands interconnecte frequency radiotelephone (used mostly for government purpos mini-satellite telephones international: country code - 692; satellite earth stations - 2 In Ocean); US Government satellite communications system on I	ata circuits e regular, ed by high ses) and atelsat (Pacific	
Radio broadcast stations:	AM 1, FM 3, shortwave 0 (additionally, the US Armed Forces Radio and Television Services (Central Pacific Network) operate one FM and one AM station on Kwajalein) (2005)		
Television broadcast stations:	2 (both are US military stations; Marshalls Broadcasting Service, a cable company, operates on Majuro) (2005)		
Internet country code:	.mh		
Internet hosts:			
	3 (2007)		
Internet users:			
	2,200 (2006)		
Transportation	Marshall Islands	Top of Page	
Airports:			
	15 (2007)		
Airports - with paved runways:			
p	total: 4 1,524 to 2,437 m: 3		
	914 to 1,523 m: 1 (2007)		
Airports - with unpaved runways:	total: 11		

914 to 1,523 m: 10 under 914 m: 1 (2007)

Roadways: 🛄 📋

total: 2,028 km (includes 75 km of expressways) (2007)

Merchant marine: 📖 🗐 📠

total: 902 ships (1000 GRT or over) 33,260,440 GRT/55,644,008 DWT by type: barge carrier 2, bulk carrier 215, cargo 61, carrier 1, chemical tanker 165, combination ore/oil 6, container 171, liquefied gas 28, passenger 6, petroleum tanker 228, refrigerated cargo 2, roll on/roll off 10, specialized tanker 2, vehicle carrier 5

foreign-owned: 857 (Australia 1, Belgium 1, Bermuda 5, Canada 4, Chile 4, China 3, Croatia 4, Cyprus 39, Denmark 9, Finland 2, Germany 214, Greece 226, Hong Kong 4, Italy 3, Japan 5, South Korea 3, Latvia 10, Malaysia 3, Monaco 7, Netherlands 5, Norway 62, Romania 1, Russia 4, Saudi Arabia 4, Singapore 12, Slovenia 3, Spain 3, Sweden 1, Switzerland 14, Turkey 41, UAE 14, UK 17, US 129) (2007)

Ports and terminals:

 \square

Majuro

Military Marshall Islands

Top of Page

Military branches: [1]

no regular military forces; under the 1983 Compact of Free Association, the US has full authority and responsibility for security and defense of the Marshall

Islands; Marshall Islands Police (2008)

Manpower

available for

military service: *males age 16-49*: 15,708 (2008 est.)

Manpower fit for military service:

males age 16-49: 12,864 (2008 est.)

Manpower reaching militarily

significant age *males age 16-49*: 512 (2008 est.)

annually:

Military

Illo

expenditures percent of GDP: NA

Military - note: 🛄

defense is the responsibility of the US

Transnational Issues

Marshall Islands

Top of Page

Disputes international:

claims US territory of Wake Island

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